

[Cottonseed]

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Burkly

COTTONSEED " Mornin' Tom, come on in and rest yourself. Here, take this rocker; them straight-backed chairs ain't comfortable atall. Say Tom! When I went to town yesterday , shore learnt lots of things I had to see about getting meal and I didn't know. hulls for the cows. # You know Tom, when us farmers buy cottonseed meal and hulls / to feed our stock, we are buying plain cottonseed, [?] but its cottonseed without one of the most important ingredients, cottonseed oil. How do I know? Why , I went through one of them there cottonseed oil mills yesterday. # ' You know Sam Burns, that tall, lanky feller who / used to work for ole man Holmes. Well, he's working at the mill and he took me through, told me exactly what thay do with them cottonseed we sell 'em. Here, fill up your pipe with some of this here homemade; and I'll tell you as near as I can what that feller Burns told me when we were goin' through the mill. No there ain't a match on the place. Here, let me get you a coal out of the fireplace. I told Mandy to get some matches from the peddlers but she [?] did'nt. Said she did'nt have enough eggs to get matches and sugar both and you know Mandy can't drink coffee without sugar in it. #" Oh, about the cottonseed. Yeah, I'll tell you jest what he told me; was jest waitin' till you got your pipe lit. #" Well, you know these oil mills buy [raw?] cottonseed from us farmers except when we trade the seed for ginning; then they buy 'em [?] from the gins [????]. The seed are carried to the mill [?] on trucks and freight cars. Laborers, that we usually called call car unloaders, unload empty the trucks and freight cars, forking the cottonseed into a screw conveyor [??] that dumps 'em into [?] a bucket elevator, and from there they go to the storage bins. An iron framework extends from end to end of the 2 storage room, forming a kind sort of tunnel through which an a [?] belt is [?] moving. The seed seeds are throwed onto this belt by two men, and they are carried through several machines [?] that remove the dust and

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dirt from 'um 'em . Then the conveyors tote the seed [?] to the gins , by [?] You know Tom, they get lots of lint off them seed, after they have already been ginned once; and bale [?] them out and sell it just like we [?] sell cotton. Take that old wore-out gin of John R's , . it don't halfway clean our seed. We sell plenty of lint with our seed[,?] We just don't know it. #” Well, as I was tellin' you, the cottonseed go through the linter gins, and / then fall into a conveyor [?] that carries them into the hopper of the hull separator machine. The mechanism of this machine cuts the hulls from the meats, the hulls goin' out of the machine one way and the meats another. The meats fall into a conveyor and are carried into a big pot like the thing [?] this feller Burns called a ' cooker. ' ”# You know Tom, I didn't know the inside insides of cottonseed was cooked before they made meal out of it, did you? Well anyway, they are. This Burns feller is called the cooker operator. It is his job to add water to the meats of the seed when it is needed during the cooking. #” How long do they cook 'em? Oh, I think he told me about an hour. ”# Anyway after they are cooked they are put into a press . I think he called it a hydraulic press [?] and all the oil is pressed out. You know they put a piece of cloth around the cooked meats before it is put in the press, and when they come out they are in cake form. He said this cloth was called camel's hair cloth. I did'nt know they made cloth out of camel's hair did you? #” Anyway when the cakes are removed from took out of the press, they strip the cloth off of 'em, and them put them 'em through a breaker machine [?] that breaks them into small pieces. Why do they have to have a machine to break them up? Why Tom, them cakes are almost just about as hard as a rock after they are pressed. 3 #” Well after the cakes are broken broke up, they are a conveyor carried carries them by a conveyor to a storage tank. They got another tank sittin' long i 'long side of this tank and its that's got bran in it. They mix this bran and the cakes together and grind it into cottonseed meal. #” What kind of bran? Why, its nothing but cottonseed hulls ground up real fine, that's all. #” Well, as I said, the cakes and bran are ground together by a grinding machine, and [?] the mixture is is carried by a conveyor and dumped into a large hopper up over what they call an automatic scale. You know Tom, that is the durndest contrapshun I ever seed seen . They put a hundred pound sack over a short chute and this automatic scale dumps a hundred pound pounds of meal into

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the sack at a time. #” Well, after the meal is dumped into the sack, a feller sews up the top of the sack with a big needle and heavy cord, and that is about all there is to it. [?] #” What happens to the hulls? Oh yeah, I forget to tell you about them. Well, like I told you a while ago, the hulls are cut off the meats in the hull separator, and then then the hulls are carried by a another conveyor to the hull packer. There's nothing much to packing the hulls into sacks. They just put a sack on a chute and the machine packs the hulls in; then the top of the sack is sewed together just like the meal sacks. Sam Burns told me that some of the oil mills had machines that ground the hulls into brans but this mill don't have one. They buy bran that they mix with the cakes to make the cottonseed meal. #” Here comes Mandy with some of them teacakes I been smellin' all morning. Here Tom, take some. If anybody can make good teacakes [?] its Mandy. #” Don't hurry Tom, we'll have some dinner after while 'while . You say you want to borrow my cross-cut saw. Its out in the wood shed . pick it up as you go by. #” Say, you-all goin' to the singing Sunday ? Yeah, guess we'll go too. Old Nell is tied in the wood shed; don't let her bite you. Well come back when you can set longer, Tom, and bring the wife and kids over. ”